Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 150954
ORIGIN IO-14

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DRAFTED BY: IO/DHP:HGWING
APPROVED BY: IO:ESWOPE
----------119896 290351Z /23
P 290045Z JUN 77
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO USMISSION GENEVA PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 150954

GENEVA PASS CHESTER E. NORRIS, US DEL TO UNDP

FOLLOWING REPEAT TEL AVIV 3992 SENT ACTION SECSTATE 06 JUN 77

QUOTE C O N F I D E N T I A L TEL AVIV 3992

ONLY FOR IO MAYNES AND NEA VELIOTES FROM LEWIS

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: UNRWA, OREP, SREF, IS
SUBJECT: UNRWA AUTHORIZATION

REF: STATE 126828

1. I HAD AN EXTENDED TALK WITH SENATOR STONE ABOUT UNWRA, STRESSING PARTICULARLY FACT THAT I HAD BEEN DIRECTLY INVOLVED EARLIER IN THE DECISION TO GO FOR A FY 78 REQUEST LEVEL WHICH WOULD MEET OUR BEST JUDGMENT OF UNWRA'S REQUIREMENTS IN ORDER TO AVOID COMING BACK TO CONGRESS FOR REPEATED SUPPLEMENTALS. I MADE CLEAR TO HIM THAT WE SHARE HIS STRONG CONCERN, WHICH HE EXPRESSED AT LENGTH, ABOUT UNWRA'S MANAGEMENT DIFFICIENCIES AND WANTED TO WORK CLOSELY WITH CONGRESS TO TRY TO FIND SOME WAY TO HELP OVERCOME THEM. BUT
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I URGED THAT HE AND THE SENATE NOT COMPLICATE THE FUNDING PROBLEM NEXT YEAR FOR AN AGENCY WHICH IS STILL ADMINISTRATIVELY BATTERED BY THE LEBANESE CONFLICT, WHILE PURSUING THEIR CONCERNS THAT UNWRA'S MANAGERIAL PROBLEMS BE BETTER ADDRESSED. (STONE IS PARTICULARLY ZEROING IN ON CREDITABLE REPORTS THAT FUND IS DISTRIBUTED TO MANY FAMILY MEMBERS NO LONGER STILL LIVING; THAT OUR

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FUNDS IN UNWRA CONTINUE TO GO TO PROGRAMS
FOR SUBSISTENCE RATHER THAN TO EFFORTS TO CREATE JOBS
AND HOUSING; AND THAT UNWRA RATIONS PRESENT A
SUBSTANTIAL DISINCENTIVE FOR REFUGEES TO SEEK WORK WHERE
IT EXISTS IN TIGHT EMPLOYMENT MARKETS BOTH IN ISRAEL
AND JORDAN.)

2. I GOT NO COMMITMENT FROM STONE THAT HE WILL CHANGE
THE POSITION HE HAS TAKEN STRONGLY IN THE COMMITTEE,
BUT HE SEEMED TO ACCEPT MY ARGUEMENT THAT IT WAS IMPORTANT
NOT TO AUTHORIZE SUCH A LOW SUM THAT SUBSEQUENTLY THE
CONGRESS WILL HAVE TO DEAL WITH SUPPLEMENTAL AUTHORIZATION
AND APPROPRIATION REQUESTS. I THINK IT IS VERY IMPORTANT
THAT YOU PERSONALLY MEET WITH HIM WHEN HE RETURNS TO
WASHINGTON ON THURSDAY, JUNE 9. I SOFTENED HIM UP SOME,
BUT THE REAL LOBBYING HAS TO BE DONE THERE WITH ALL THE
FACTS IN HAND. ONE CAUTION, HOWEVER: KEEP IN MIND THAT
HE IS NOT IMPRESSED WITH SOME OF THE ARGUMENTS WE HAVE
MADE IN THE PAST. HE IS, HOWEVER, QUITE RECEPTIVE TO
THE PROPOSITION THAT WE HAVE A NEW STRONG AMERICAN
MANAGEMZNT IN UNWRA WITH WHOM TO WORK, AND IT IS
CERTAINLY IN US INTERESTS TO AVOID POLITICAL UPHEAVALS
AMONG THE REFUGEES GROWING OUT OF A
DECISION TO KEEP UNWRA ON TOO SHORT A FINANCIAL TETHER.

3. STONE IS REASONABLE AND VERY CONCERNED ABOUT THESE
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ISSUES. IF YOU DEAL WITH HIM FROM THAT POINT OF VIEW,
MY GUESS IS THAT YOU WILL HAVE SOME SUCCESS.
LEWIS

UNQUOTE VANCE

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